

## One Hundred Ninth Congress U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2006

The Honorable Robert Simmons Chairman Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment

## Dear Chairman Simmons:

Pursuant to Rule II (M) of the Committee on Homeland Security, we are requesting that you require the appearance of Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker, Dean of Pacific McGeorge Law School, to testify about the National Security Agency's (NSA) domestic surveillance program. Ms. Parker previously served as the General Counsel at both the NSA and the Central Intelligence Agency.

On April 6, 2006, the Subcommittee will hold a hearing entitled "Protection of Privacy: DHS Intelligence Enterprise." The purpose of the hearing is to focus on privacy and intelligence, and how the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and the Privacy Officer are working together to safeguard this important civil liberty. In the wake of the recently publicized NSA domestic surveillance program, we should have an opportunity to ask witnesses about that program specifically and how the Department intends to ensure that information obtained in violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act or the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution is not incorporated as part of I&A analysis efforts. Ms. Parker's testimony would be a valuable contribution to understanding the NSA program and its potential impact on the Department's homeland security mission.

Because the Majority declined our request that a witness from NSA be invited to the April 6<sup>th</sup> hearing, the Committee cannot arrive at any significant conclusions regarding the NSA program and its potential privacy impact on I&A. Due to her intelligence experience, Ms. Parker, while not a substitute for a witness currently serving at NSA, would help shed important light on this program. Pursuant to Rule II (M) which entitles the minority party Members of the Committee to select witnesses to testify, we therefore request that you issue an invitation to Ms. Parker requiring her to appear before

this Subcommittee within the next 14 business days. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Jessica Herrera-Flanigan, Minority Staff Director.

Sincerely,

Bennie G. Thompson

Ranking Member

Committee on Homeland Security

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism

Risk Assessment

Jim Langevin

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack

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Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee Member of Congress

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Subcommittee on Management, Integration

and Oversight